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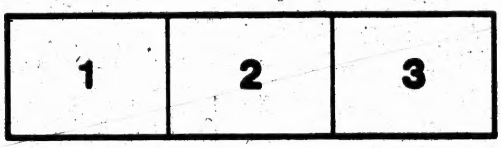

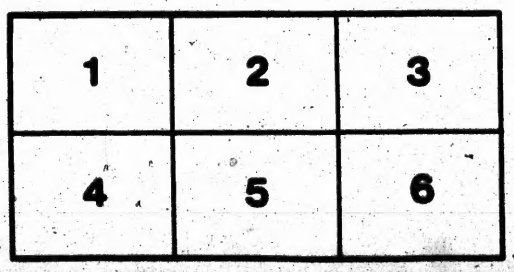

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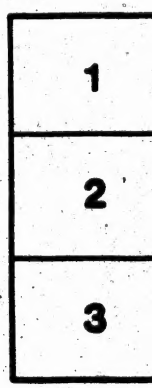


ABSTRACT OF REPORT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

PROHIBITORY CONFERENCE

HELD IN OTTAWA,

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, APRIL 22nd and 23rd, 1874.

In the month of February 1874 a circular signed by the Presidents and Secretaries of the Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick Temperance and Prohibitory Leagues was addressed to the presiding officers of the several Grand Divisions Sons of Temperance;—Grand Temples. I. O. Good Templars :—Grand Lodges of British American Templars —and Grand Lodges of British Templars, in the Dominion of Canada. The circular requested each of these officers to name THREE members of their respective orders to meet in Conference with delegates from the Leagues, in the city of Ottawa during the session of Parliament. A second circular named Wednesday the 22nd of April as the day of meeting. The conference was called, in view of the introduction into the Dominion Parliament of the question of Prohibiting the traffic in intoxicating Beverages—to promote the united and concerted action of all Temperance organizations in reference to the Prohibitory agitation, and to afford an opportunity for consultation with friends in Parliament &c.

The Conference was also expected to consider the propriety of organising Leagues in the Provinces where none exist, and a Council of Leagues for the Dominion.

Pursuant to the call contained in the above named circulars, a number of delegates met in Ottawa on the day named. Rev. Wm. Scott was appointed temporary Chairman.

MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE.

The following gentlemen were found to be in attendance with credentials from the officers of representative temperance bodies :—

NATIONAL.

Most Worthy Grand Lodge of British Templars.—Samuel Watts, Woodstock, N.B.

ONTARIO.

Ontario Temperance and Prohibitory League.—Rev. Wm. Scott, Oshawa; Rev. J. M. Cameron, and Rev. Jacob Spence, Toronto.

Grand Temple I. O. Good Templars.—John Ormiston, Gananoque; Dr. Oronhyateka, and W. S. Williams, Napanee.

Grand Division Sons of Temperance.—G. M. Rose, Toronto; Thomas Webster, Brantford; J. M. T. Hannum, Ottawa.

Grand Lodge British Templars—Hon. A. Vidal, Sarnia.

QUEBEC.

Quebec Temperance and Prohibitory League.—Rev. R. F. Burns, D.D., Rev. A. Sutherland, and Rev. T. Gales, Montreal.

Grand Division Sons of Temperance.—John C. Becket, Montreal; Rev. A. Duff, Sherbrooke.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

New Brunswick Temperance and Prohibitory League.—R. T. Babbit, Gagetown; Samuel Watts, Woodstock; Rev. W. H. Beckwith, St. John.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Grand Division Sons of Temperance.—M. H. Goudge, M.P.; C. E. Church, M.P.

Credentials were also received from the officers of the following bodies:—

Grand Lodges of British American Templars.—Ontario and Quebec.

Grand Lodge of British Templars.—New Brunswick.

The following gentlemen were also present, (some of them with credentials from Subordinate Bodies)—

Rev Wm Moore, Rev D M Gordon, Rev A A Cameron, Rev W J Hunter, Rev Wm Hall, H S Watson, J G Howe, J B Halkett, G J Duff, F Hunter, B H Teakles, and — Hanly, of Ottawa, Rev Robt Wallace and Thos Nixon, Toronto; Thos W Casey, Napanee; John Beatty, M.D., Cobourg; Rev Thos Brock and Rev Wm Burns, Perth; Rev S Bond and H Hutchins, Kemptville; Mitchel Neville, Newburgh; James Quigley, Pakenham; S Ferguson and Wm Henderson, Napean; Rev E Robson and J F Meilleur, Morrisburg; Rev W Raney, Carlton Place; John Robertson, McNab; J McEwan and W H Magee, Merrickville; James Young, Rockville; Wm Furnival, Vankleek Hill, and others who neglected to enroll their names in the book provided for that purpose.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

The Members of Parliament were cordially invited to participate in the deliberations of the Conference,—there were present

Senators.—Hon. A. Vidal; Hon. B. Flint; Hon. J. Ferrier; Hon. J. C. Aikens.

Members of the House of Commons.—J L Biggar, Northumberland; C. Burpee,

Sunbury, N.B.; D. B. Chisholm, Halton, Ontario; C. E. Church, Lunenburg, N.S.; C. C. Colby, Stanstead, Que.; James Cunningham, New Westminster, B.C.; G. Fleming, Brant. Ont.; Dr. Forbes, Queens, N.S.; A. Gordon, North Ontario; M. H. Goudge, N.S.; G. W. Ross, West Middlesex, Ont.; R. Smith, Peel, Ont.

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE.

The following were elected officers of the conference:

REV. WM. SCOTT, Oshawa, Ont.,—*President.*
R. T. BABBIT, Gagetown, N.B.,—*Vice-President.*
W. S. WILLIAMS, Napanee, Ont., } *Secretaries.*
REV. T. GALES, Montreal, Que., }

Interesting accounts of the present position of the temperance movement were given by gentlemen from the various provinces represented, and the conference was favored by Hon. A. Vidal and G. W. Ross, M.P., and others, with a statement of the work done by the Committees of both Houses of Parliament, as well as the plans resolved upon by the respective Committees.

The following resolutions of the Conference will, it is hoped, meet with a hearty response from temperance reformers in every part of the Dominion.

(1) *Resolved,*—That this Conference rejoices in the growing strength of public sentiment throughout the Dominion in favor of Temperance and Prohibition as manifested by the petition movement and the reports presented by delegates from various Provinces.

(2) *Resolved,*—That in the opinion of this Conference the time has arrived when a prohibitory law (if enacted by the legislature) would be sustained by public sentiment.

(3) Inasmuch as there exist conflicting opinions as to the success of prohibitory legislation in other countries. *Resolved* that we approve of the appointment of a Royal Commission to obtain reliable information on this subject, being fully satisfied that the result of the authoritative information thereby secured will fully justify the conclusion at which we have arrived in favor of the passage of a prohibitory Law, and we most respectfully suggest that said Commission should be instructed to report at an early date and that the Government cause such report to be published, as soon as possible thereafter, for general information.

(4) *Resolved,*—That we gratefully acknowledge the efforts of our friends in Parliament on behalf of a Prohibitory Liquor Law,—we beg to express our approval of the course now being pursued by them and the plans which have been suggested to attain that desirable end, we also assure them of all the support we can give in any further efforts, necessary to secure for Canada a sound and workable Prohibitory Law.

(5) *Resolved,*—That we hereby express our appreciation of the help already rendered to our cause by those of our fellow subjects who have availed themselves of the privilege of petitioning Parliament in favor of Prohibition, and we urge upon all temperance organizations and friends generally the great importance of continued and persistent effort in the same direction during the coming year to the end that Parliament may be still more fully informed of the state of public sentiment on this important question.

A resolution was also adopted recognizing the important service rendered by the various religious bodies and soliciting their continued co-operation.

PROVINCIAL LEAGUES AND A COUNCIL OF LEAGUES FOR THE DOMINION.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted, and are commended to the serious consideration of all whom they may concern—

Whereas The Canada Temperance Union at its third annual session held in Montreal Sept 1870, resolved to confine its operations, to the Province of Ontario provided the friends of Temperance in each of the other Provinces of the Dominion would organise a provincial Society, with a view to creating at an early date, by delegates appointed from each province, a National Society as the Executive head of the moral, religious and political temperance work of British America and

Whereas—there are now in active operation Provincial Temperance and Prohibitory Leagues for the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, and—

Whereas—the interest manifested in the various provinces of the Dominion in favor of Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic; and introduction of the question into the Senate and the House of Commons with the reports of the respective Committees of both Houses, have gained for the Temperance question, more especially in its relation to the Liquor Traffic the position of a great National Question, demanding the heartiest co-operation of all its supporters, the fullest and most intelligent discussion of its claims, and the adoption of such modes of action as may be required to remove the difficulties that exist, and secure for Canada a prohibitory Liquor Law therefore it is resolved.

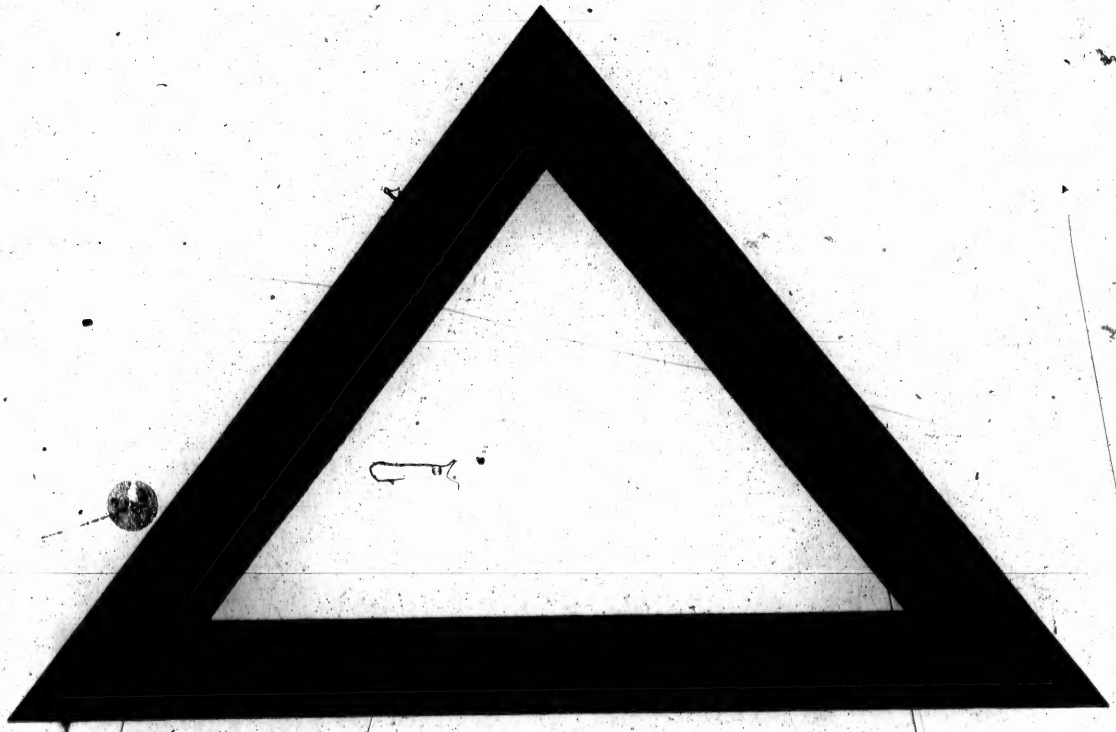
(1) That this conference strongly desires the speedy formation of Leagues in those provinces where such are not yet organized.

(2) That we recommend the formation of a General Council of Consultation composed of delegates from the various provincial Leagues and Grand Bodies of the temperance organizations the chief object of such council being to keep the temperance bodies in constant communication with each other, and with our friends in Parliament, and to secure united action in all efforts for the overthrow of the Drink Traffic.

(3) That a committee of three consisting of the Rev. Wm. Scott, W. S. Williams, and Rev. T. Gales be appointed to communicate the above resolution to the Temperance Bodies therein referred to, and that in case such Bodies shall accept the recommendation, the Rev. Wm. Scott shall be the Convenor to call delegates together for the purposes of organization.

The Rev. T. Gales was instructed to publish 5,000 copies of an Abstract of the Proceedings, and it was further agreed that the expenses of the meeting, including the publishing the Report, should be defrayed by the "Leagues," in the following proportions:—Ontario, two-fifths; Quebec, two-fifths; New Brunswick, one-fifth. The whole not to exceed $75.

The President and Secretaries of the Conference were requested to prepare a *manifesto* to the people of the Dominion in view of the present position of the prohibitory agitation.

W. S. WILLIAMS, } *Secretaries.*
T. GALES, }

W. SCOTT,
President.